



# 1<sup>st</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION & FORT RILEY

## Community Update



### CAB unit named tops in Army

By Anna Staatz  
Duty First! Magazine

They dealt with dust and sandstorms, combat conditions and long, hard hours, but at the end of a 15-month deployment, the Soldiers of the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, proved they were the best in the Army.

The 1st Infantry Division battalion was awarded the Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Award as the top battalion in the combat support category. The unit accepted the award during a weeklong Senior Aviation Leaders Conference Jan. 26-30 at Fort Rucker, Ala.

The Fighting Eagles deployed to Iraq in September 2007 as part of the CAB, 1st Inf. Div. The unit returned to Fort Riley in December 2008. The Fighting Eagles are the

(Continued on Page 2)



Commanding  
General: Brig. Gen.  
Perry Wiggins

Garrison  
Commander:  
Col. Richard Piscal

Division  
Command  
Sergeant Maj.:  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Jim Champagne

Garrison  
Command Sergeant  
Major:  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Ian Mann

March 2009  
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Sgt. Patrick Chambers, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., and a native of Denton, Texas, has changed jobs: from vehicle maintenance to brigade leadership protection.

### Dagger mechanic makes mid-tour move

By SGT Brian Tierce  
2nd HBCT PAO, 1st INF. DIV., MND-B

**BAGHDAD** – Since the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division–Baghdad, assumed control of its operational area in November 2008, Soldiers of the Dagger Brigade have performed a multitude of missions to secure the citizens of Baghdad and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

For Sgt. Patrick Chambers, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., a recent change in jobs took him from vehicle maintenance to brigade leadership protection.

Chambers, a native of Denton, Texas, recently volunteered to serve as a member of the Dagger Brigade's Personal Security Detachment. It was

a dramatic change from working in the motor pool, but for Chambers it was a switch he ready to make.

“Being in the motor pool is the same thing every day,” Chambers said. “Once you fix something, you have more things rolling in; I just wanted a change. I wanted to try something new.”

The PSD was in need of a non-commissioned officer to perform the role of team leader. Leaders also identified other PSDs in the brigade had the advantage of internal maintenance support.

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Fort Riley:  
Proud Home of the  
**Big Red One**

(Continued from Page 1)

largest flight unit in the CAB, with almost 650 Soldiers who carried out seven different missions. During deployment, the unit operated with 10 UH-60 command and control Black Hawk helicopters; 12 CH-47 assault and heavy lift Chinook helicopters; 12 UH-60 MEDEVAC helicopters; six air traffic control towers; two 24-hour aviation and ground maintenance companies and a battalion headquarters company.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Michael Tetu said pilots faced some of the most austere weather conditions Iraq has seen in the last 30 years.

"We had an unbelievable amount of sand and dust storms during what the weather people said was the driest year in more than 30 years," Tetu said.

Tetu said the battalion really began to come together during the deployment.

Even with seven companies performing a wide variety of missions, his Soldiers went above and beyond to support and take care of each other.

"Fifteen months requires a ton of trust and commitment from the guys and gals in uniform, and also an incredible amount of trust and faith from Families back home," Tetu said.

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**Staff Sgt. Emilio Granados and his Family cut the ribbon at the new Post Exchange Feb 13 at Camp Forsyth. Joining the Granados Family are Edward Bouley, AAFES senior vice president; Maj. Gen. Keith Thurgood, AAFES commander; Col. Ricky Gibbs, 1st Inf. Div. chief of staff; Stan Young, AAFES general manager at Fort Riley; and Col. Richard Piscal, Fort Riley garrison commander.**

## New Post Exchange opens with flair

By Paula Nardella  
1st Infantry Division Post Staff Writer

With the snip of over-sized scissors, the new Post Exchange officially opened for business at 9:24 a.m. Feb. 13.

The ceremony began with the playing of the national anthem by members of the 1st Infantry Division Band and an invocation by Chap. (Col.) Gary Norris.

"There's just so many great things about the new PX," said Col. Ricky Gibbs, 1st Inf. Div. chief of staff during his opening day remarks, "I don't have time to talk about them all,"

"Thank you to all of those who are customers," said Maj. Gen. Keith Thurgood, commander of the Army and Air

Force Exchange Service.

In honor of the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, Staff Sgt. Emilio Granados and his Family cut the ribbon to the new store along with Thurgood; Gibbs; Stan Young, AAFES general manager on post; and Edward Bouley, AAFES senior vice president.

To celebrate the opening, many stores and organizations were giving away free merchandise. Among other giveaways, Stylique Salon and Spa gave away a gift basket valued at \$250, and Petals and Blooms gave away two bunches of a dozen long-stemmed roses.

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# Mission Support Element geared to step in when the Division deploys

By Bill Armstrong  
1st Infantry Division Post Staff Writer

A recent Army-wide restructuring of Forces Command units has led to the formation of the Fort Riley Mission Support Element.

The MSE, based in Building 580 with 1st Infantry Division Headquarters, supports the Fort Riley senior commander with his Title 10 and administrative control responsibilities and performs some division staff tasks when the commanding general and division staff deploy.

The MSE provides seamless and continuous administrative and Title 10 support to the post's senior commander, Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, who also is commanding general of 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

Administrative control and Title

10 support includes management of resources, equipment, personnel management, logistics, mobilization and demobilization, and unit readiness reporting.

In a synchronized movement, the MSE becomes a third column of Fort Riley's organizational structure. The MSE works closely with both division and garrison staffs to ensure staff support is provided to non-deployed units and post operations continue when the division headquarters goes to war.

"If we're doing those Title 10 and ADCON tasks now, then it's easier to transition when the division staff deploys," said Ollie Hunter, MSE director.

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MARCH 2009 STATUS REPORT			
*All numbers are approximate	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009
1st Infantry Division military personnel assigned to Fort Riley, KS (not including Military Transition Team personnel)	15,150	15,000	15,477
Active Duty Soldiers Deployed Overseas (Not including deployed Military Transition Teams)	4,000	3,900	4,123
1st Infantry Division military personnel assigned to the Nebraska location	50	50	56
Military Transition Team Members assigned to Fort Riley	470	700	872
Total Military Transition Team Members deployed	5,600	4,900	4,001
Activated Reservists working on Fort Riley	270	200	211

## Soldiers fill teaching slots

A Department of Education program designed to help former Soldiers become teachers is thriving on Fort Riley.

The Troops to Teachers program began in 1994. The TTT program objective is to recruit quality teachers for K-12 schools across the nation that serve low-income Families. The program is designed to relieve teacher shortages in such subjects as math, science and special education. To meet the need, TTT assists Soldiers, who already have a bachelor's degree, by providing information on state licensure programs, teacher examination preparation and financial assistance.

Soldiers participating in the program often are within one year of Army separation. If eligible, the program provides a stipend to help complete teacher qualifications.

To get started, Soldiers contact Colleen Schulteis, the Fort Riley representative for Troops to Teachers, Mountain West region.

"In addition to their G.I. Bill, we provide \$5,000 which goes toward tuition assistance," Schulteis said.

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## DEPLOYED/ DEPLOYING/ REDEPLOYING UNITS

Currently deployed, as of February 2008:

- 97th Military Police Battalion's working dog team
- 300th Military Police Company
- 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division
- Military Transition Teams
- Elements of MEDDAC assigned to the 10th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), 115th CSH, 1835th Med (Combat Stress Team), Institute for Surgical Research (ISR), 274th Fwd Surgical Team, 47th CSH.
- Elements of 10th Air Support Operations Squadron

Scheduled to deploy:

- 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; 84th EOD (Apr); 630 EOD (May)

For redeployment ceremony information,

## Upcoming March events

MARCH 1-31

— Custer Hill Golf Course Membership Drive, 10 percent off all annual dues. Call 784-6000 for details

MARCH 9-13

— Annual Severe Weather Alert Week

MARCH 10

— 1st ID/Fort Riley National Prayer Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Junction City Marriott

MARCH 13

— St. Patrick's Day Parade, featuring the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Parade Team, Chapman, KS, 4 p.m.

MARCH 10-APRIL 6

— Community Relations is accepting entry forms for the May 16th Scout Riley event. Call 239-2022 for more information.

MARCH 14

— St. Patrick's Day Parade, featuring the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Parade Team, Aggieville

District in Manhattan, KS, 9:30 a.m.

MARCH 17

— The Garrison Employee of the Month will be named at 7:45 a.m. at Building 500.

— Happy St. Patrick's Day. Celebrate at the BOSS Bowling Party, 6-9 p.m., at the Custer Hill Bowling Center.

MARCH 18

— Women's History Observance, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Riley Conference Center.

MARCH 19-20

— Training Holiday

MARCH 25

— The March retirement ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. March 25 at King Field House.

MARCH 26

— Junction City/Geary County Military Affairs Council Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Geary County Convention Center, Courtyard by the Marriott, Junction City

MARCH 27

— BOSS Talent Show, 8-10 p.m., Rally Point.

APRIL 1

— Manhattan Military Relations Council Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Riley Conference Center. Manhattan Mayor Mark Hatesohl to speak.

APRIL 5

— McCain Performance Series. Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. 7:30 p.m. 211 McCain Auditorium, Manhattan, Kansas. For more information please call (785) 532-6428

APRIL 10

— Comedy Night at the Opera House. C. L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City. 135 W. 7th St., Junction City KS. For more information, please call (785) 238-3103.

NOTE: Ceremony times are tentative. Check the [ceremonies link](#) for current information.

## Stay In Touch with the Big Red One & Fort Riley

For more 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley news visit [www.fortrileypost.com](http://www.fortrileypost.com) or the pdf version [here](#).

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To sign up for [Training Advisories](#), [click here](#).

Already registered with Fort Riley In Touch, [click here](#) to update your Fort Riley In Touch messages.



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